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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS:

Aratani et al.

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GROUP NO: 1742

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EXAMINER: J. Combs

INVENTION:

THIN FILM FORMATION USE SPUTTERING TARGET MATERIAL, THIN FILM FORMED USING SAME, AND OPTICAL RECORDING

MEDIUM

Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

11AY 16 2000

(Reg. No. 35,902)

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement imposed in the Office Action mailed on April 10, 2000, Applicants hereby elect Group I (Claims 1, 2 and 7) without traverse. The Patent Office is authorized to cancel, without prejudice, Claims 3-6, 8 and 9. An early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on May 9, 2000.

Attorney for Applicants